

FCC votes campus radio study

FCC announcement Friday (April 9) of intention to look into operations of college and university campus carrier-current radio stations brought with it controversy between Commissioners Thomas Houser and Nicholas Johnson.

Commission said additional information about contemporary carrier-current systems is necessary because it has received "substantial number of inquiries and requests" regarding off-campus service and networking.

Commission also noted 1969 Ford Foundation study indicating increase in campus stations.

Comments, due June 4, also were invited on proposed rules for such stations using interconnection of two or more systems and interconnection of system with electronic media such as broadcast stations or CATV.

Commissioner Johnson, sole dissenter, expressed doubts as to real motivation behind "interest in campus radio," adding "inevitably there will be those —especially students—" wondering if commission's action is related to "desire to control" medium run by "generation of students who have become politically vocal, often in opposition to establishment wars and other values."

Commissioner Houser termed Commissioner Johnson's dissent an "incredibly political statement. Commissioner Johnson seeks not to disagree with his colleagues but to dishonor them before his constituency."

In related issue, commission announced authorization to Clarkson College of Technology, Potsdam, N.Y., to have signal of its noncommercial WNTC-FM picked up by Athena Systems Inc., local CATV system and distributed to cable subscribers.